WAR HERO 'SHADOWS' WAY TO FAME OVERNIGHT; TRAILS AND TRAPS \$2,500,000 SUPER-BANDIT

CENTERING PEDBEO DEDGER-PERVODE CELL LONDAY DUTY IN 1022

Playing a Lone Hand and in Momentary Danger of Death, Gordon Mc-Carthy Wins Confidence of Robbers, Solving Thefts That Baffled Experts

POSING AS 'JIMMY,' A YEGG. HE WORMS SECRETS FROM BROADW Y HOLD-UP GANG

Learns of \$500,000 Loot Buried on Long Island, Offers to Sell Stolen Securities, Then Notifies Police and 'Gentlemen Bandits' Are Caught at Rendezvous

LL the elements of melodrama, except the wholesale shedding of blood. are compressed in the recent experiences of a young overseas veteran who became a detective celebrity overnight.

He solved robberies totaling \$2,500,000, included in which was the taking of \$1,500,000 in cash, jewelry and bonds from a mail truck on Broadway, New York, a daring coup that set a high-water mark for omobile banditry in this country.

Playing a lone hand and in momentary danger of a bullet in the brain a knife in the back, he posed as a "yegg" from the West and gained e confidence of three men whom the police class as super-highwaymen. It was a case of "crossed trails." This keen, cool man-hunter was seking down the men who stole \$70,000 from an American Railway Express Company truck when the trail broadened to bigger game.

Great Skill Demanded

in "Roping" a Criminal

term the stalking of criminals and suspects, is compara-

"SHADOWING," as detectives

tively easy compared to "roping,"

which demands a high degree of

By "roping" detectives mean

the process of ingratiating them-

selves with the men they are

hunting and then, as supposed

confederates, draw out the secrets

It was by a remarkably clever

bit of "roping" that Gordon T.

American Railway Express Com-

pany, solved the mail truck hold-

up on Broadway, New York, one

of the most daring and sensa-

tional robberies ever accomplished

in the United States.

several States.

of some case, big or little.

skill in impersonation.

Gordon T. McCarthy, a special agent of the American Railway Express Company, is the young de-tective who proves that the thrills of fiction are not foreign to everyday

At his home in Buffalo this modern Lecoq modestly related his great aploit. He did not talk freely. His attitude was that of a man who had tackled a hard job, who had one it well, and was ready for the

McCarthy got his first taste of letective work as an army secret gent, serving at General Pershing's headquarters, and later going to london. He worked for a time with ondon's famous Scotland Yard.

To give background to McCarthy's chievement it is necessary to go back to the night of October 24, last year, when a mail truck rolled long Broadway with \$50,000 in ash and several million dollars' worth of securities.

As the truck passed under an arc light at Leonard street a green tour- Obtains a "Lucky Break"; ing car containing three men drove longside it. Two of the men leaped out and covered the mail driver with revolvers. In less than a minute to bring out details of that quest. It ey had taken five pouches of regstered mail from the truck, tossed vice districts and the "White Light" them into their automobile and sped belts of various cities.

the ordinary mail and did not take robbery. As the trail swung in a circle, other registered pouches, which later McCarthy was once more in New York, were found to contain non-negotiable buffled for the moment but still plugsecurities. But by chance or fore- ging away. knowledge, they took the sacks with Then came what McCarthy modestly the cash, the jewelry and the bonds describes as a "lucky break." In the which could be turned into currency, underworld the young special agent be-

Scores of Detectives Fail to Get Results

obtained of the crooks.

try to eash them somewhere.

secord as a forger, although he is about

seventy years old. I had to work

cautiously with Fisher, and I was soon

convinced he knew nothing of the gang

"Then on March 4-1 think that was

date a Mrs. Martha Fuller, who

putting the 'paper' out.

This Broadway hold-up, the first Chapman," continued McCarthy. obbery of a mail truck in New York That was the "lucky break" he menor many years, brought shoals of tioned. He was referring to Gerald police and postoffice inspectors on Chapman, alias Colwell, alias Edward

the trail. But clues were scant and Bryce, alias "The Count." there were no results. Chapman, George Anderson and The incident that brought Mc- Charles Lambert, the three men trapped Carthy into the case occurred in by McCarthy, are now in the Tombs in Magara Falls on December 21, when New York under \$125,000 ball each for motor bandits held up three express the Federal Grand Jury.

company employes and escaped with "I guess I looked good to Chapman," 70,000 in securities and travelers' McCarthy went on. "Soon afterward Chapman, "The Count," drove up in Highwaymen Trapped I was introduced to Anderson, known his \$7500 motorcar. "I was detailed to that job," explained McCarthy as he sat on the veranda of his box of the Professor, and Lambert, known as "The Professor," and Lambert, known as "The Doctor."

"They were wary of me for several

veranda of his home in Buffalo. days. The underworld has its tests, "The usual preliminaries were gone and I was tested for several days bethrough. The company employes fore I gained the confidence of the three were questioned. Descriptions were men.

McCarthy did not say so, but he thus They had made a clean getaway and began what is known in detective parseemed almost impossible to trace lance as "roping," the most difficult them through the car they used. One task of the secret agent. The detective. hope remained. That was in the ap- worm himself into the confidence of the Dearance of some of the travelers' men he stalks.

thecks the bandits obtained. It was A false step, a careless word, a susertain they or their confederates would picious action, would shutter in a moment the confidence built up carefully "I had information of certain gangs over a period of many weeks. There is hat were operating out of New York always the chance that a suspected agent City. It was merely a matter of rou- will be shot or stabbed, paying with his tine to go there and start the hunt. One life for his during.

of the checks showed up there in Feb. Three Men "Big Spenders"; "I traced a check to Charlie Fisher. All Had "Plenty of Jack" who is said to have an international

"It was after I had known 'The Count' and the others for a while that I discovered they were the men who looted the mail truck on Broadway last October," McCarthy said.

"I had been working on the express company angle, but this was a new and unexpected complication. I showed no an a rooming house, tried to use one the stolen checks in a department took it as a matter of course. astonishment over the mail robbery. I ore, She was arrested and I began

"The three men were big spenders. dig into the case from that angle. Life for them was an almost continuous "But again I became convinced that round of wild parties in hotels, roadwoman was only a small party in houses and cabarets. I spent money te deal. The police of Niagara Falls freely with them. There were no half-

alled her, however, and they took her way measures with that gang. there. Later she was discharged. "Occasionally when they held a party Meanwhile I kept tabs on several in some big hotel all of us were evening



GORDON T. McCARTHY

Overseas veteran and former United States Army intelligence agent, who, working on a \$70,000 American Express Company robbery, ran to earth the super-highwaymen who held up a mail truck on Broadway, N. Y., and whose robberies are said to have netted them \$2,500,000.

made up their parties. The women Then the \$21,000 in securities were gangs and trailed some of them through French dandy." After his discovery that the three agara Falls.

Meets Bryce, "The Count" McCarthy ignored a question meant detective bureau.

was left to the imagination to picture his careful stalking of criminals in the Three detective sergeants, O'Brien, Stepat and Kiley, were assigned to co-

operate secretly with McCarthy. But the "shadowing" did not yield The young special agent had dropped ten years at least. The robbers paid no attention to a hint regarding the express company hints to his three "subjects," as men Instead, the secret agent turned the under surveillance are termed, that he securities over to one of the detec-

took the bait. offered a 20 per cent commission, which sults from "Jimmy." came known as "Jimmy," a yegg or McCarthy said he would split with a On Sunday night, July 2, McCarthy, safe-cracker who was ready for any desperate job that promised rich loot. the engraved paper. "I got an introduction to 'Count'

Learns Much of the Loot Is Buried on Long Island

During the many chats that the supposed "Jimmy" had with the men they mentioned that much of their loot was a jewelry store in Scranton, Pa. buried near Lake Ronkonkoma, Long Island. He dared not ask them for the exact location of the stolen treasure.

On Sunday, June 25, the "Count." the "Professor," the "Doctor" and avenue,

To the casual eye of the doorman and



After ninety minutes of digging they uncovered a box containing \$500,000 worth of securities.

McCarthy, a special agent for the dress. They had hundreds of good the sophisticated glance of the head stories on tap and seemed typical men waiter, the four were well-to-do brokabout town with plenty of 'jack' and a ers, or possibly rich clubmen. They knowledge of the good things of life. got a private dining room and ordered "Ten or twelve persons sometimes I first-class meal.

> seemed unaware of the other side of passed over to McCarthy. Among them heir lives. 'The Count' could order a were Packard Motor and Mexican Pemeal with the discrimination of a troleum steck. About \$3000 worth of the securities had been stolen at Ni-

swaggering highwaymen were responsi- This transaction in itself is an inble for the mail truck hold-up, Mc-Carthy got in touch with the New York underworld are notoriously afraid of the ble for the mail truck hold-up, Mc. teresting sidelight on the confidence "double cross."

> to send the securities to Toledo. There, according to the story he told Chapman, they would be placed with an estate, where no reckoning would be made for

could easily dispose of securities. They tive sergeants. The three "dress-suit bandits" were shadowed constantly. A After some parleying, "the Count" week passed, and the ready funds of agreed to turn over \$21,000 of the the gang were running low. "The bonds obtained in the mail robbery. He Count" became uneasy and wanted re-

pal in Toledo who would actually place met the three men by appointment and told them his pal had cashed the securities and would have the money on hand the following day.

"It was welcome news to 'the Count' and the others." resumed McCarthy. "They had about decided to take to the road again. They planned to 'stick up'

"But when I told them the cash was coming for the paper they gave me

at Their Rendezvous

'Professor,' left the party to get a cup les. of coffee. He was met, I later learned, by O'Brien, Stepat and Kiley, who Rest of Mail Truck Loot nabbed him and hustled him to the 100th street station.

"Then the detectives burried to the is yet to be recovered. Postal in. year, rendezvous, Chapman and Lambert were waiting for me when the New gang will "break" and tell what was inspector at Washington estimated that the local post of being bent over a desk all my life—to sit watching the clock to the open companions and desk-mates because chief clocks or superintendents or managers, or passed that the clock to the cl what had happened.

I wanted to be on hand when the three for the first time after his arrest he

" 'Jimmie, you're lucky you weren't bumped off.' 'Don't be sore at Jimmie,' O'Brien told him.

with Lambert, the "Doctor."

help you, I told him." said McCarthy.

to work with picks and shovels.

Time seemed to roll back to the they agreed to meet the following after. swashbuckling days of sea rovers and noon on 102d street near Amsterdam their buried treasures. As he dug Me-Carthy thought of doubloons and pieces of eight he had read about when a boy.

After ninety minutes of digging they having the steel cell doors clang on | A class developed in New York City and recklessness that McCarthy uncovered a box containing \$500,000 worth of securities. Most of them were "I sent a tip to the detectives and identified as part of the mail track Mail Robbery Losses the postoffice inspectors, and everything loot. Others were recognized as stolen was set for the pinch. Anderson, the from several other postoffice robber-

Is Yet to Be Recovered

McCarthy's task. He merely smiled robberies became more frequent. "Meanwhile I had gone to an apart- when questioned about it and said the Among the most notable of those robment house to nab a friend of the gang postoffice inspectors were fine men and beries were at Toledo, O., when a truck spend all his days at distasteful work and professional mentars lazy and this case better

escape, however, and that delayed me. tective. There was not even the him valuables, "When Chapman, in prison, saw me of a boast in his remarks. He did not Another robbery, even more sensa-

told him.

"I never get sore at a copper and I don't hold any grudge against Jimmie,"
Chapman replied.

"I never get sore at a copper and I was born in Fundo and Ranway, near quoncy, in.

The engineer, threatened with death, was forced to uncouple the baggage and always will be handreds of thousand, as he smilingly remarked. He atmail cars and run them up the track to find the same of such men—that the way to promo
If, at fifty, he is bent over the same. tended Canisius College at Buffalo, but for two miles. The robbers escaped tion for the industrious and the am-

He got a job as clerk with the ex-valued at \$125,000. "Come clean, Charlie, and it will press company and showed such apri- A \$75,000 robbery occurred on the I history of these desk-bound men.

The three men now in the Tombs are a mail wagon in Atlanta on the night. In another instance where the inords show that Chapman did transfer clerk were on the vehicle.

Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

Handled Delicate Cases

Many a device of the detective's art he

tucked away in his memory, ready to

bring them forth for use when the need

Chapman and Anderson are known gagged. The robber fled with all the Jackson street postoffice at Dallas, to the police of London, Berlin, Paris registered maif. and Rome. Their records and the, The helpless mailmen were found an clerk and shot two other postal emchilled-steel nerve they have displayed hour later. Inspectors placed bloods player. They escaped with two registime and again only emphasize the bounds on the robber's trail, but he got tered pouches, brilliant hit of work McCarthy did in away.

\$2,000,000 in 1920

The three highwaymen at one stroke in the Broadway hold-up had carried off lost almost totaling in value the entire losses from robberies for the

the total losses by theft equaled \$2,000,. life-to sit watching the clock to the places that gave larger opportunities, But that search is now no part of 900. Early in 1921, however, postal and of my days, because of my distike

was rifled of \$1,000,000 of securities, Almost the entire narrative had been and at Minneapolis, when a lone bandle, ginning life. were arrested. The witness tried to dragged piecement from the young de- robbed a mail car of \$200,000 worth of

mention that rewards totaling \$15,000 tional, occurred a few days after the been doing the same thing in the same

A little later McCarthy was alone did not complete the entire course. with registered letters and packages bitlous is comparatively easy.

tude and intelligence that he was made night of April 8, 1920, when train you would find that most of them were "Lambert 'came clean' with a full a claim agent. Then came the war, No. 0 on the Sante Fe Railroad, run- as little interested in their work when confession. He told where the stuff and McCarthy was one of the first ning between Fort Madison and Kansas they began it as they are today.

went through the Argonne offensive The clerk left standing, with his hands | Other Notorious Bandits fupraised, then was ordered to tie the The young soldier's record was so hands of his comrades.

good that he was recommended for a When this was done the robber made commission. Then he was transferred the clerk lie down beside the others from the 309th Infantry to the army's and bound his hands and feet. Then the bandit took a knife from his pocket It was in that service that he learned and began slitting the registered mail to meet emergencies. His work brought sacks, removing what he wanted.

him into many cities and towns in He jumped from the train as it drew Northern and Southern France, and into Kansas City, Mo.

carried him across the Channel to Eng. About a month later Horace T. Walton, a former mail clerk, was shot and killed by a Chicago policeman after the robbery of an Illinois Central train be-With Scotland Yard Men tween Kankakee and Chicago. The In London he was assigned to several body was identified as that of the "lone wolf" who robbed the Santa Fe train. delicate cases and he got an "inside

view" of Scotland Yard's methods. Another Mail Robber's Buried Loot Recovered

Another instance where the proceeds of a mail robbery were buried by the But wild horses, apparently, could thief occurred in April, 1920, when a not get McCarthy to talk about that mail messenger in San Diego, Calif., part of his career. Perhaps he gained was held up and robbed of \$60,000 overseas the knowledge that enabled worth of registered mail.

him to establish contact with "the In forty-eight hours the postal in-But McCarthy calls that spectors had arrested R. G. Garner, achievement merely "a lucky break." who less than a month later was sen-

Pygmies Besides Mail Gang

THE old stage coach robbers of the Western plains and England's eighteenth century "gentlemen of the road" shrink to pygmies in achievement compared with the highwaymen who looted

last October. The truck contained registered parcels mailed by numerous brokerage houses in Wall Street. The mail pouches held \$50,000 in cash and \$4,000,000 in jewelry, stocks and bonds.

a mail truck in New York City

On the night of October 24 as the autotruck moved along Broadway it was halted by three bandits in a green tourning car. The hold - up occurred at Leonard

In less than a minute the bandits had taken five registered pouches containing \$50,000 in cash and \$1,500,000 in jewelry, bonds and stocks. After the robbers dashed away in their car a curtain of mystery dropped on

the big theft. But behind the curtain worked Gordon T. McCarthy, a special agent of the American Railway Express Company. McCarthy, a young former service man, was working on another case when he came across the mail truck

The special agent's account of his experiences on that case is a brilliant chapter in the history of

train No. 4 left St. Louis and soon afterward halted at Tower Grove station. Four masked men boarded the

When the train got under way again two of the robbers stood guard while their comrades walked through to the mail car. One held revolvers at the heads of the clerks and the other took five registered pouches to the door.

The bandit then pulled the signal cord, and as the train slackened speed he threw the pouches off. The "goahead" signal then was given, after which the robber cut the cord. All four masked men then leaped from the

Three Highwaymen Trapped After a Similar Robbery

A few weeks later, when inspectors still were working on the Missouri Pncific robbery. a Chicago, Burlington and Quincy train was boarded by two robbers as it moved between Uniqua-Pacific Transfer and the station at

Council Bluffs, Ia. The robbers forced their way into one of the mail cars and waited until the train made its regular stop at a crossing. Ten pouches then were tossed off. A confederate was waiting there with a motorcar. This confederate seized and drove off with five of the sacks, while the two hold-up men escaped with four others. The tenth pouch was recovered

Later the inspectors arrested Keith L. Collins, the driver of the motorcar, Wash. He confessed that he had buried the loot in a canyon near Del Mar. It Leavenworth Prison. Fred E. Poffenwho was sentenced to fifteen years in barger and Orville Phillips were ar-In still another case a robber im- rested as the hold-up men and also got personated a policeman and got aboard long terms in prison.

not novices to prison life. Police rec- of June 15, 1920. A driver and a spectors speedily captured the robbers "stretches" in Elmira and Sing Sing. After the wagon had gone a short taken from a mail messenger at Mount \$189,000 in cash and securities were that Anderson served time in Joliet and distance the bogus policemen drew two Vernon, Ill. All the booty except a Auburn, and Lambert in the Black- revolvers and ordered the driver to pro- few dollars was recovered.

wells Island Penitentiary and Sing ceed to the outskirts of the city. There On the same day as the Mount Verboth postal employes were bound and non robbery masked men held up the Tex. The robbers mortally wounded a

> a few weeks later, and a man known plunged when he took up the trail of as Thomas Donahue was arrested. The the Niagara Fulls hold-up men. The driver and the transfer clerk identified record he made in that case brought him him as the supposed policeman who to the front rank of the courageous men who match their wits with criminals in On August 18, 1920, Missouri Pacific a game of desperate bazards.

Uncommon Sense: The Young Man's Bugbear

or the drudgery of the job."

The haunting fear that one must IT is to be regretted that the majority of men-laborers and office workers for the drudgery of the job."

McCarthy met the three men by

appointment and told them his

pal had cashed the securities

and would have the money on

tenced to twenty-five years in the Fed-

eral penitentiary at McNeils Island.

hand the following day.

is in the heart of many young men be- this very laziness is the opportunity of

I add and discouraged, and who have is true. Some are due to relationship. had been offered for the three highwaymen and that he was entitled to
all of it.

In the was entitled to light fast express on the Chicago and Alton

In the control of t

THEY see about them men who are continue so to rise till the end of time. Some promotions are due to pull, it

if, at fifty, he is bent over the same

desk that he was at twenty-five, it vill be because he lacked the brains and IF YOU could go buck through the the ambition to go any higher. Woman Narrowly Escapes Death

Lifting a bottle of what she thought simple medicine, early yesterday, Mrs. McCarthy and the three detective and easily located the spot. It was an easily located the spot. It was a came proficient in handling grenades an automatic revolver. He forced all while they worked.

Camp Dix.

As the inspectors later called him.

Companions and desk-mates who were awakened her husband, who summoned the interested showed their interest by working harder and by thinking harder pital. At the hospital the woman's life was saved.